

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 256679

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OPR-02 A-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 CCO-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ARLAY:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. DAY

NEA/P - MR. VAN ORDER

S/S- FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, PFOR, LE, U.S.

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENTS IN ST. GEORGE HOTEL

REF: 256024

WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS HAVE CALLED DEPARTMENT WITH STORY THAT JONATHAN RANDAL WAS INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR GODLEY IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT RESCUE OF CORRESPONDENTS IN ST. GEORGE HOTEL WAS "LOW PRIORITY".

BOTH PAPERS SEEM TO BE INTERPRETING THIS AS MEANING THAT THEIR PRIORITY WAS LOW IN JUDGMENT OF AMBASSADOR. WE ASSUME THIS NOT THE CASE AND WOULD LIKE TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS PRESS ACTION WHICH LIKELY TO APPEAR IF STORY NOT CORRECTED. PLEASE GIVE US URGENT REPLY REGARDING STATUS OF THESE CORRESPONDENTS AND COMMENTS ON ALLEGED REMARK BY AMBASSADOR. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, US, (RANDAL, JONATHAN), (TUNNELL, DOUGLAS), (MCLAUGHLIN, WILLIAM), (LLOYD, NORMAN), (HARATI, A)
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